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NORTH WEST

MERSEYSIDE & WARRINGTON GROUP

Sainsbury's north-west regional distribution centre

Dave Twist, Warehouse Operations Manager, Darren Higginbotham, Operational Support Manager, and John Sutton, Stock Manager, welcomed the Group to Sainsbury's Haydock distribution centre. Haydock is one of 24 depots, some of which are run by Sainsbury's and others operated by third parties. This particular site opened in 1995 as a 250,000ft² warehouse run by Wincanton for Sainsbury's. More recently, the facility was expanded to 650,000ft² and the whole site is now run entirely by Sainsbury's colleagues: 750 in the warehouse and 250 in transport, including 120 managers.

Sainsbury's has recently celebrated 150 years of trading since its first shop was opened in Drury Lane, London. Its first depot opened in 1882 in Kentish Town. The company started introducing computerisation into its distribution as early as 1961. For many years it was known as a predominantly southern England company, but it started moving north; Doncaster became its most northerly store when it opened in 1974. Expansion continued and its 1,000th store opened in Irvine in Scotland in 2011. The company bought Home Retail in 2016 and the Argos brand was rolled out into numerous Sainsbury stores. The so-called store-in-store Argos offer is now in 239 shops nationally, of which 33 are in the north-west.

The Haydock distribution centre services 169 stores split across various store formats ranging from supermarkets to petrol stations. The centre has 110 loading bays of which 61 are on one side of the facility. The operation runs 364 days a year, 24 hours a day. Sainsbury's has a massive Christmas peak. The facility handles around 80 million cases per year and has an on-site recycling unit. It acts as a primary consolidation centre to hold full loads from smaller suppliers that can then be distributed around the depot network. Haydock also services the Northern Ireland stores via the Port of Cairn Ryan.



The Group at the Sainsbury's Haydock distribution centre

The depot holds branded and own-brand goods at the facility, which has several chambers, including chilled product that need to be in supermarkets by 05.00 hrs and convenience stores by 07.00 hrs. This product is picked in grids. The chilled product is kept at 2°C. Ambient product is stocked in a racked area and picked by store order. Produce is maintained at 7°C. Some frozen product is transhipped at the site. Sainsbury's has used a Red Prairie warehouse management system for several years that measures movements and warehouse efficiency. Colleagues have a performance measurement system that rewards higher levels of productivity.

The in-house transport operation involves the use of over 200 pieces of HGV equipment, including tractor units, trailers, rigid vehicles, online vans and on-site internal tugs. The vehicles operate around the clock and are planned by a Paragon scheduling system that does three million calculations a minute. The vehicles are

satellite tracked and the drivers are monitored by a Microlise system. Stores have full visibility of the lorries that are delivering to them, so that they can plan their staff.

The Group thanks Anita Mears and Darren Higginbotham, Sainsbury's, for a really interesting visit.

Geoff Clarke FCILT
Merseyside & Warrington Group

UPCOMING EVENT

ENHANCING THE LOGISTICS PROCESS THROUGH RIGHT SIZE PACKAGING

18th September 2019

Ribble, Greengates Street, Oldham, Lancashire OL4 1DF
Andy Barnetson, Director of Packaging Affairs at the Confederation of Paper Industries, will review the regulatory developments that are on the horizon both in the UK and across Europe, and the impact of the change in consumer opinion, and consider some of the changes that are likely to follow.